

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 DODE-00 IGA-02 ACDA-07 L-03 /081 W

-----081630Z 126646 /43

R 081615Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1588

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10463

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR EAID FR XY CG

SUBJ: DAKAR FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT

REF: STATE 77383

1. IN APRIL 7 CONVERSATION LARGELY DEVOTED TO OTHER SUBJECTS, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA CHRISTIAN DE LA ROCHERE PROVIDED SOME INFORMATION ON THE DAKAR SUMMIT. THE FORMAL AGENDA OF THE MEETING WILL CENTER ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, INCLUDING THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. FROM THE FRENCH VIEWPOINT, MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS WILL BE CONSIDERED DURING THE BILATERAL TALKS GISCARD IS SCHEDULING WITH THE 18-ODD HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING MOBUTU, EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

2. ACCORDING TO LA ROCHERE, THE AFRICANS REACTED BADLY TO THE CUT THIS YEAR IN THE NUMBER OF FRENCH TECHNICAL ADVISERS (MAINLY TEACHERS). ALTHOUGH FRANCE'S PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR ARE SUPPOSEDLY STILL CONFIDENTIAL, THE AFRICANS LEARNED THAT A FURTHER CUT WAS BUDGETED AND THEY PROTESTED. CONSEQUENTLY, OVERRIDING MINISTRY OF FINANCE OBJECTIONS, GISCARD RULED AGAINST THE PROPOSED

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REDUCTION.

3. FRANCE INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE A TRIPLING OF ITS CURRENT CONTRIBUTION TO THE AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH GISCARD'S SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICA - SEE 76 PARIS 14732) WHEN THE SOLIDARITY FUND'S PRESENT RESOURCES RUN OUT. (THIS PRESUMABLY MEANS AN ADDITIONAL

FRENCH CONTRIBUTION OF AT LEAST 150 MILLION FRANCS.)

4. LA ROCHERE SAID THAT THE AFRICANS ARE LIKELY TO PRESS FOR ACTION ON GISCARD'S SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICA ANNOUNCED AT LAST YEAR'S FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT. WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHY THERE WAS NO PROVISION IN THE FRENCH BUDGET FOR THIS ITEM, LA ROCHERE PARRIED WITH THE COMMENT THAT ALTHOUGH THE US HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN GISCARD'S PROPOSAL, IT SUBSEQUENTLY HAD TIED ANY AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO FRENCH SUPPORT FOR THE ZIMBABWE FUND TO WHICH FRANCE, BECAUSE IT HAD NOT INDEMNIFIED RETURNING FRENCH SETTLERS, COULD NOT SUBSCRIBE OTHER THAN NOMINALLY. EMBOFF DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF ANY AMERICAN THREAT TO LINK THE US CONTRIBUTION TO GISCARD'S SPECIAL FUND TO THE FRENCH REACTION TO THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 10463

ZIMBABWE FUND.

5. LA ROCHERE THOUGHT THAT MILITARY QUESTIONS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE CORRIDORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESURGENCE AS A RESULT OF THE SHABA INVASION OF CONCERN AMONG MODERATE AFRICANS ABOUT SOVIET DESIGNS IN AFRICA. FOR THE MOMENT, THE FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO RESPOND ON A BILATERAL BASIS TO THE MORE PRESSING AFRICAN REQUESTS FOR MILITARY AID, AND WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER SUPPORT ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS WERE THE AFRICANS TO

PRESENT A COHERENT PLAN, WHICH THEY HAVE NOT YET DONE.
HE UNDERScoreD THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF FRANCE'S
INVOLVING ITSELF IN A COMBINED COMMAND WITH AFRICANS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE LEFT UNSAID, THE QUAI DOUBTLESS
EXPECTS MOBUTU, OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN DAKAR, TO
MAKE A MAJOR PITCH FOR SUPPORT. THE FRENCH CAN BE
EXPECTED DISCRETELY TO BACK ANY SUCH EFFORTS, HOPING
AT A MINIMUM TO ORGANIZE DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT, BUT
PROBABLY REMAINING SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE UTILITY OF TRYING
TO ENCOURAGE BLACK AFRICAN TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS FOR
ZAIRE'S DEFENSE.
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